

Book reviews

Syphilis and the Eye. Edited by B. SCHWARTZ. 1970. Pp. 299, 19 figs, bibl. Livingstone, Edinburgh. (£9)

This book is essentially a hard-cover reprint of the third issue of Volume 14 of the *Survey of Ophthalmology*, and has a mainly historical approach. There are short articles on the life of Douglas Argyll Robertson and his pupil, and of Josef Igersheimer (who must have been a charming person), and a review of his book on syphilis and the eye. J. Lawton Smith again reviews the current status of ocular syphilis and Golden and Thompson admit the problem of evaluating the spiral forms found in the aqueous. There follows a historical survey of the treatment of syphilis, but one wonders how the author avoided the cautionary tale: "One night with Venus and the rest of your life with Mercury". Finally, Loewenfeld reviews almost everyone's opinion about every aspect of Argyll Robertson's pupil, with league tables showing how the authors fared.

So far, apart from the glossy format, this is still part of Volume 14. The extra delight is a 2,433 item bibliography relating to the Argyll Robertson pupil. The results cannot be commended. We are presented with a reprint of a reprint of Argyll Robertson's paper which is also included in the bibliography. One must be grateful that the other 2,432 papers were not reprinted. Surely, if this issue of the *Survey of Ophthalmology* were so out-standing a re-issue could be obtained, with the offer of a photostat of the references if needed. Your reviewer found all the articles readable, interesting, and informative. On the other hand, the policy of foisting an expensive book (£9) on to libraries and even subscribers to the present journal is to be deprecated. For once a strong protest must be made against editorial policy, and this can only be effective by not buying the book.

Textbook of the Fundus of the Eye. By A. J. BALLANTYNE and I. C. MICHAELSON. 2nd ed., 1970. Pp. 736, 821 figs, bibl. Livingstone, Edinburgh. (£15)

This is an excellent, well-organized, and well-produced book dealing with the pathological processes which may affect the vitreous, retina, Bruch's membrane, choroid, and optic nerve. Methods of examination, which are carefully described, include fluorescein angiography and ultrasonics. There are numerous reproductions of histological preparations and of the fundus.

It is a pity that more use is not made of fundus photographs, instead of the usual drawings, particularly of the optic disc. In a few cases the colour reproduction is poor. Surgical workers would perhaps prefer more detailed description of indirect ophthalmoscopy and scleral indentation.

These, however, are small criticisms which do not detract from a masterpiece which should be available to all ophthalmic surgeons, physicians, and neurologists.

Clinical Ophthalmology. Vol. 2 (Ophtalmologie clinique) Edited by G. BONAMOUR. 1970. Pp. 615, 174 figs. 6 col. pl. Doin, Paris (160 N.F.)

This is the second half of a general textbook of ophthalmology written by members of the Medical School of Lyons under the direction of Georges Bonamour. It deals with the uveal tract, vitreous, ocular motility, optic nerve, glaucoma, neuro-ophthalmology, ocular trauma, the eye and systemic disorders, poisoning, genetics, and medical treatment in ocular pathology. Like the first volume it is well written and abundantly illustrated and can be recommended to French-speaking junior ophthalmic specialists.